

PROJECT: SAVANNAH HARBOR ENTERANCE CHANNEL

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE MORTALITY AND DREDGING ACTIVITIES

Species: LOGGERHEAD (*Caretta caretta*)
Date: 02/06/02
Time: 24 hour clock: 1530
Geographic Site: BETWEEN R12 → RBA, RED SIDE
Location: Latitude: 32.00.70 N Longitude: 80.48.07 W
Vessel Name: BAYPORT
Type of Dredging Activity: HOPPER DREDGE
Load #: 213
Sampling Method: INFLOW SCREENING BOXES
Location Specimen Recovered: PORT DRAGHEAD AND FORWARD INFLOW BOX
Draghead Deflector? ☒ YES ☐ NO
Condition of Deflector: GOOD CONDITION
Weather Conditions: ROUGH 3-4' SWELL & WIND SEA
Water temp: Surface: 55°F @ 1400 Column: _____
Head Width: NOT AVAILABLE
Plastron Length: NOT AVAILABLE
Carapace S.L. Length: NOT AVAILABLE
Carapace S.L. Width: NOT AVAILABLE
Carapace O.C. Length: NOT AVAILABLE
Carapace O.C. Width: NOT AVAILABLE
Condition of Specimen: 6 PIECES FOUND (2 SHELL, 1 FLIPPER, 3 INTERNAL)
Turtle Tagged? YES ☐ ☒ NO
Tag #: _____ Tag date: _____
Comments/Other: PORT DRAGHEAD: PIECE OF SHELL & FLIPPER
Observer's Name: ZACK KLYVER

(*) YOUNG TURTLE AS NOTED BY THE SOMEWHAT
SERRATED APPEARANCE OF SHELL MARGIN FRAGMENT.

01150-B1

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (Caretta caretta) TAKE ABOARD THE DREDGE BAYPORT IN THE SAVANNAH ENTERANCE CHANNEL ON FEB. 06, 2002

AT THE END OF DREDGING LOAD #213 AT APPROX. 1530 A PART OF LOGGERHEAD (Caretta caretta) WAS FOUND STUCK IN THE PORT DRAGHEAD. THE PORTION WAS AN ANTERIOR PIECE OF CARAPACE (4-5 SCUTES) AND HIND FLIPPER. THESE REMAINS WERE TIGHTLY WEDGED INTO THE DRAGHEAD SO ONE OF THE CREW ASSISTED BY CUTTING IT OUT WITH A HANDSAW AND IN THE PROCESS SEPERATING THE FLIPPER AND SHELL. THE FORWARD PORT INFLOW BOX WAS FULLY PACKED WITH SHELLS AND SAND. BUT A VISUAL INSPECTION SHOWED SEVERAL PIECES OF FRESH ENTRAILS / INTERNAL ORGANS HANGING DOWN FROM THE FRONT OF THE SCREENING BOX.

A HOSE WAS USED TO SLOWLY CLEAR THE FOWARD PORT BOX OF SAND AND SHELL. IN ADDITION TO ENTRAILS A LARGE PIECE OF FLESHY SKIN WAS FOUND AND PART OF THE INNER CARAPACE THAT MEASURED ($8\frac{3}{4}$ ") IN LENGTH. A TOTAL OF 6 PIECES WERE FOUND, SEX COULD BE DETERMINED AS FEMALE, AND GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF THE CARAPACE SCUTES SUGGESTED YOUTH. ALSO THE SERRATED APPERANCE OF THE OUTER SHELL MARGIN, A DIAGNOSTIC FEATURE IN IMMATURE LOGGERHEADS THAT DISAPPEARS WITH AGE, WAS NOTED. THIS OUTER FRAGMENT WAS ($8\frac{1}{4}$ ") IN LENGTH, THE ESOPHAGUS WAS 13" IN LENGTH AND ENTRAILS 12" IN LENGTH. PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AND PARTS BAGGED AND FROZEN. (SEE INCIDENT REPORT FOR FURTHER DETAIL)